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C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 001020

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: IRISH RESPONSE TO GAERC DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 147536

Classified By: POL CHIEF MARY DALY FOR REASONS 1.4.B

(C) Emboffs delivered reftel points on July 9 to Deputy Political Director Paul Kavanagh. He offered the following comments:

--In regards to the China arms embargo, Kavanagh said that if the UK holds a hard line against lifting the embargo, it likely will remain in effect; however, if the UK appears to be softening then the embargo likely would be lifted.

--In regards to Asia and the EU-ASEM summit, Kavanagh stated the Dutch will appoint former Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek to be special envoy for Burma. He also stated that there are differing views within the EU regarding how the worsening human rights situation in Burma will effect the October EU-ASEM summit. While Germany, France, Italy, Poland, and Austria are willing to accept Burmese participation in the summit at the ministerial level (as opposed to PM level), the UK is holding firm to the position that the EU must take a strong stance (likely in the refusal of any Burmese participation) until Burma shows positive signs of reform. Kavanagh stated the issue on how to address the Burma situation is unlikely to be resolved until the September GAERC. He said Asian countries were aware of the divergent views within the EU and would play on that.

--In regards to Helms-Burton, Kavanagh promised to inform Irish Foreign Minister Cowen on the status of Title III of the Act and also reiterated Irish concerns that Helms-Burton is an extra-territorial law.

--Kavanagh confirmed Iraqi PM Allawi's attendance at the GAERC and added that reftel items regarding Iraq, Afghanistan, and Venezuela are still being considered within the EU. Post will report in septel if substantive information is made available.

FORT